

Taking *Nomeris* first, as being the clearest case, I confess I see no way of putting it aside. Even its being a misprint is purely an assumption, while the sentence in which it is founded is perfectly properly worded, with a genotype (*Phocœna melus*, misprint for *Ph. melas*, a recognized synonym of *Ph. phocœnoides*) and a couple of words of diagnosis, so that there can be no doubt whatever as to what animal it applies to, or as to the technical validity of its foundation. It should, therefore, be recognised as a name having technical status, and, being earlier than *Neophocœna*, would naturally invalidate that. We may believe *Nomeris* was a misprint, but there is no evidence to that effect, and, even if it had been said to be so by its author, that would not remove its technical validity.

But there is an earlier name, *Meomeris*. In Gray's 'List of the Osteological Specimens in the British Museum,' 1847, this name appears in the Systematic Index on p. xii, in its proper place next to *Phocœna*, with the species-name *phocœnoides*, and there being only one *phocœnoides* in the family Delphinidæ, it is clear what is the genotype of *Meomeris*. In the body of the work (p. 36) we have "The Finless Porpoise, *Meomeris phocœnoides*," placed as the only species of the genus *Neomeris*. It may, therefore, be assumed that *Meomeris* is a misprint for the earlier name *Neomeris*, but none the less it is put in too valid a way to be ignored, having both type-species and a descriptive word. I therefore maintain, on the lines used in dealing with *Dryomyis*, that *Meomeris* should be considered as having full technical status, and that, instead of the much later *Neophocœna*, it should be used for the Finless-backed Porpoise, whose full name would thus be *Meomeris phocœnoides*.

LXXXIV.—*The Bandicoots of Nuyts Archipelago, S. Australia, and of Cape York, N. Queensland.* By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

(Published by permission of the Trustees of the British Museum.)

PROF. F. WOOD JONES, of Adelaide, has sent to the British Museum two spirit-specimens and four picked-up skulls of the Bandicoot which inhabits the Nuyts Archipelago, where also he had previously obtained the interesting Murine *Leporillus jonesi*, described by me last year. In sending them, he has drawn my attention to certain characters in which they

differ from the mainland Bandicoot, and on comparison I find the difference so marked and so constant as to be worthy of recognition by name. In examining the skulls I have had for comparison the fine series of *Isoodon obesulus* obtained by Mr. Shortridge in South-west Australia, a series numbering nine males and five females, and showing well the age and sex characters found in this difficult genus.

The island-form I would propose to call

Isoodon nauticus, sp. n.

Size markedly smaller than in the continental *obesulus*, the skull of an adult male only about 55 mm. in length, as compared with 70 or more in *obesulus*. General colour comparatively pale; under surface white; hands and feet with grey-brown metapodials and white digits; tail brown above, whitish below.

Skull far smaller than in *obesulus*, smooth, and almost without cranial ridges, the sagittal crest obsolete, and even the two lateral thickenings of the occipital much less developed than usual. Nasals much shorter and narrower than in *obesula*. Bullæ not far from as broad as in *obesula*, but peculiarly shortened, rather abruptly cut off behind.

Teeth small throughout. The three juxtaposed incisors, i^2-i^4 , together about 3 mm., as compared with 4.5 and upwards in *obesulus*. Canines short. Secator and molars all proportionately reduced.

Dimensions of the type (measured on the spirit-specimen before skinning):—

Head and body 242 mm.; tail (damaged, 103 mm. in another rather younger specimen); hind foot 50.

Skull: greatest length 54.5; condylo-basal length 53; zygomatic breadth 25.3; nasals 21.7×5.2 ; intertemporal breadth 11.6; palatal length 31; oblique diameter of bulla 10.3; dental length 98; front of canine to back of m^4 20.5; diameter of secator 2; combined length of m^{1-3} 8.5.

Hab. Franklin's Island, Nuyts Archipelago, S. Australia.

Type. Adult male. B.M. no. 22.4.15.6. Collected and presented by Prof. F. Wood Jones.

The main difference of this island Bandicoot from *I. obesulus* is its markedly smaller size, as compared with continental specimens of corresponding sex. Its bullæ are also shorter, and it is probable, as occurs with other insular forms of the genus, that there is less sexual difference in size than in the mainland animal.

In working out this animal, I have again examined a fine series of Bandicoot skins and skulls obtained by Mr. Robin Kemp at the extreme north end of the Cape York Peninsula in 1912-13. Some of them are the large animal with an extra crook on its m^4 , which represents Ramsay's *torosus*, whether that is or is not separable from Gould's *macrourus*.

But the series of a small species related to *auratus* seems certainly to be distinguishable, and may be called

Isodon peninsulae, sp. n.

Size and general characters as in *I. auratus* of the Northern Territory of S. Australia. Colour, on the whole, similar, but the light bands on the hairs are paler, more buffy, less ochraceous, and, especially, the sides have not the ochraceous wash generally found in *auratus*, and no doubt the basis of its name. Under surface white.

Skull, as in *auratus*, distinguished from that of *obesulus* by the almost complete absence of any sexual difference in size, the males not or but little longer than the females. General size about as in *auratus*, but the muzzle decidedly longer and not so conical. A skull of *auratus* with a zygomatic breadth of 29 mm. has a muzzle length (orbit to gnathion) of 29.6 mm., while one of *peninsulae*, with the same breadth, has its muzzle 33 mm.; and this difference runs throughout the good series available. Nasals in consequence markedly longer. Palatal vacuities and bullæ slightly smaller, but both as usual very variable.

Teeth, on the whole, rather smaller than in *auratus*, but the difference very slight.

Dimensions of the type (measured in the flesh):—

Head and body 308 mm.; tail 116; hind foot 56; ear 31.

Skull: greatest length 62.5; condylo-basal length 62; zygomatic breadth 29; nasals 25 × 5; orbit to gnathion 33; intertemporal breadth 12; palatal length 37; anterior palatal foramina 4.6; palatal vacuities 5.6; oblique length of bulla 13.3. Dental length 33.5, front of canines to back of m^4 24.5; ms^{1-3} 10.

Hab. Northern Cape York. Type from Utingu, others from Cable Station.

Type. Adult male. B.M. no. 15.3.5.71. Original number 2415. Collected 20th September, 1912, by Robin Kemp. Fifteen specimens examined.

Distinguishable from *auratus* by its comparatively long muzzle.